



News and Info

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2012 Older Americans Month: *Never Too Old to Play.*

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Breaking News

We Can't Wait: Obama Administration Announces New Steps to Fight Alzheimer's Disease

We can't wait: Administration announces new steps to fight Alzheimer's disease
The Obama Administration today announced new efforts to fight Alzheimer's disease, including immediately making an additional \$50 million available for cutting-edge Alzheimer's research. In addition, the administration announced that its Fiscal Year 2013 budget will boost funding for Alzheimer's research by \$80 million. Today's announcement also includes an additional \$26 million in caregiver support, provider education, public awareness and improvements in data infrastructure.

To read the entire press release, go to

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/02/20120207a.html>

Obama Administration Takes Steps to Strengthen Economic Security for Seniors

Last week, the Obama Administration took steps to strengthen economic security for our nation's seniors by giving Americans greater investment information and access to more choices to plan for a secure retirement. These steps will be of particular importance to women, who tend to live longer and have fewer retirement assets and lower retirement income than men.

The Departments of Labor actions will require 401(k) plan providers to better disclose the cost and nature of the services they provide, while the Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service announced steps that will ease regulatory barriers in the market for annuities and other forms of lifetime income.

The Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) has prepared a detailed report describing the significance of these actions. To download a copy of the report, go to

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/cea_retirement_report_01312012_final.pdf

Message from Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee on National African American History Month, February 2012

I join President Obama in recognizing February as National African-American History Month in recognition of the contributions to our nation made by people of African descent.

The 2012 theme for African American History Month is "Black Women in American Culture and History." As with many cultures, throughout history, African American women have played a defining role in family, church and

community. From Harriet Tubman who after escaping from slavery, made thirteen return missions to the south to rescue more than 70 slaves using the Underground Railroad Network, and in the post-Civil War era struggled for women's suffrage, to educator and social activist Dr. Dorothy Height who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004, to First Lady Michele Obama, African American Women have had a significant role in shaping who we are as a Nation today.

African American women have made great strides but many continue to suffer. Three in five older African Americans are women, and their median income is \$35,049. The great majority of African American caregivers are women, many of whom have multiple chronic conditions themselves as well as a variety of family responsibilities. The 33 percent poverty rate of older African American women who live alone is second only to older Hispanic women (44 percent).

The Administration on Aging and the National Aging Services Network, through the services of the Older Americans Act, work to ensure that elder African Americans and all older Americans maintain their well-being and independence with value and dignity. As the provisions of the Affordable Care Act are implemented, we will continue to develop and advance a nationwide system of home & community-based long-term services and support that is first and foremost responsive to the needs & preferences of older Americans and their caregivers.

To read the President's proclamation, please visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/01/31/presidential-proclamation-national-african-american-history-month-2012>

Older Americans Month 2012 Materials Now Available

The Older Americans Month 2012 theme is "Never too old to Play." The theme encourages older Americans to stay engaged, active and involved in their own lives and in their communities. The Administration on Aging is pleased to provide materials to assist our partners at the national, state, and local levels plan for activities in commemoration of Older Americans Month. Information on upcoming Administration on Aging activities to celebrate Older Americans Month coming soon!

To view and download the Older Americans Month 2012 logo and poster in both English and Spanish as well as other materials, please visit: http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/Press_Room/Observances/2012/Older_Americans.aspx

Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Reminders

AHRQ FOA: Building the Science of Public Reporting

The Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality solicits applications that propose to build the scientific evidence base for effective public reporting for consumers through innovative, actionable studies that address pressing questions in the field.

Letters of Intent Deadline: February 27, 2012

Application Deadline: March 28, 2012

To learn more about this FOA and to download the application, go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=tgLpPpQSwkt5RpYrG4vBTkjSNydjcKSHsJ2S0NLysWzr2fLMq6ms!1368593367?oppId=139273&mode=VIEW>

HRSA FOA: Housing Counseling Training Program

Funds are available through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide training activities designed to improve and standardize the quality of counseling provided by housing counselors employed by agencies participating in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Counseling Program.

The last day to apply is March 5, 2012.

To read the full announcement and to download the application, go to <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=wKDtPN6PQN4C5YLTZWZncLQLmdYynfrQbW3yyXttcjSktB6xWnWY!347337819?oppId=137033&mode=VIEW>

HHS Health IT Challenge

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) new health IT challenge, *Discharge Follow-Up Appointment Care Transitions Challenge* challenging software developers to create an easy-to-use web-based tool that will make post-discharge follow-up appointment scheduling a more effective and shared process for care providers, patients and caregivers.

Total Prizes for this challenge is \$5,000 + extras. The deadline is April 30th.

To learn more about the *Discharge Follow-Up Appointment Care Transitions Challenge*, go to

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/01/20120126b.html>

Connections for Cardiovascular Health Accepting Grant Applications

The AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation is accepting applications for the 2012 Connections for Cardiovascular Health program. Launched in 2010, the program seeks to improve cardiovascular health within the United States and its territories. In 2011, the program awarded more than \$3.6 million in grants to over twenty organizations working to improve cardiovascular health in their communities.

The application deadline is March 15, 2012.

For complete program guidelines and to download the online application form, go to <http://www.astrazeneca-us.com/foundation/>

Stay Informed

Free Webinar on *AHRQ Quality Indicators Toolkit for Hospitals*

The Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will host the webinar, *How to Improve Performance on the AHRQ Inpatient Quality and Patient Safety Indicators: Introducing a Toolkit for Hospitals* to provide more information on its recently released *AHRQ Quality Indicators™ Toolkit for Hospitals*. The toolkit is a free resource to guide hospitals through the process of using the AHRQ Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQIs) and Patient Safety Indicators (PSIs) to improve care.

Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

To register, go to:

http://meet63385651.adobeconnect.com/hospitaltoolkitregistration/event/event_info.html

To download the *AHRQ Quality Indicators™ Toolkit for Hospitals*, go to

<http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/qitoolkit>

More information on the AHRQ Quality Indicators is available at

<http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/>

Accessible Transportation Webinar

The webinar *Connecting Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and Mobility Managers to Enhance Accessible Transportation* will provide an overview of the Mobility Management Independent Living (MMIL) program, developed by Easter Seals Project ACTION (ESPA) in partnership with the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living and the National Council on Independent Living (CIL). Through the program, CIL professionals and mobility managers collaborate to strengthen relationships between their groups and raise awareness of the issues people with disabilities face as they seek the transportation they need.

Presenters will share information about strategies that help to establish and foster strong relationships between the partners. In addition, they will offer suggestions on ways organizations, mobility managers and transportation professionals can replicate the MMIL program.

Date: Wednesday, February 29
Time: 2:00 p.m. ET
Host: Easter Seals Project ACTION

To register, visit:

<http://www.easterseals.com/site/Calendar/320323035?view=Detail&id=37286>

Reminder: Community Organizing Webinar Series

Hear from expert community organizers and learn more about identifying, developing and empowering leadership through organizing concepts, tools and strategies. Participation is free and does not require pre-registration.

Upcoming Session:

February 9, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET: *Introduction to Leadership & Organizing*

Call-in Information:

Number: 866-639-0744

Webex Link: <https://qualitynet.webex.com>

Password: Community

The series is sponsored by the Colorado Foundation for Medical Care. To learn more about this organization, go to <http://www.cfmc.org/integratingcare/Default.htm>

Tools & Information

New Toolkit Targets HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education to Older Adults

Thirty years after doctors diagnosed the first case of AIDS, the number of persons over the age of 50 living with HIV/AIDS continues to increase. In an effort to reach this population of older Americans, who may not be educated about the spread and risk factors for HIV/AIDS, the Administration on Aging has developed the *HIV: Know the Risks. Get the Facts. Older Americans and HIV/AIDS Toolkit*, specifically designed for educating the more mature audience.

The kit, developed for use by aging services advocates and other organizations interested in informing seniors, contains easy to use resources, such as posters, a factsheet, a customizable PowerPoint presentation, and video that can be used to educate older adults on how to protect themselves against – or live with – AIDS.

For more information or to access the *HIV: Know the Risks. Get the Facts. Older Americans and HIV/AIDS Toolkit* visit

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HPW/HIV_AIDS/toolkit.aspx

Report: Medicare Beneficiary Savings and the Affordable Care Act – February 2012

New data show average American with Medicare to save nearly \$4,200 through 2021 thanks to health reform

Nearly 3.6 million people with Medicare saved \$2.1 billion on their prescription drugs in 2011 thanks to the Affordable Care Act according to data recently issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The Affordable Care Act provides a 50 percent discount on brand-name prescription drugs and this year, a 14% discount on generics. Last year, it provided a seven percent discount on covered generic medications for people who hit the prescription drug coverage gap known as the donut hole, with 2,814,646 beneficiaries receiving \$32.1 million in savings on generics.

In 2011, the 3.6 million Americans who hit the donut hole saved an average of \$604 on the cost of their prescription drugs.

Data also show that women especially benefitted from the law's provision with 2.05 million women saving \$1.2 billion on their prescription drugs.

To download a copy of the report, go to <http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/2012/MedicareBeneficiarySavings/ib.shtml>

Study Finds Racial and Ethnic Disparities in US Cancer Screening Rates

The percentage of US citizens screened for cancer remains below national targets, with significant disparities among racial and ethnic populations, according to the first federal study to identify cancer screening disparities among Asian and Hispanic groups. The report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Cancer Institute published last month in the CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

To read the complete report, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/>

New Resource Tool for Alzheimer's and Dementia Staff

For the fourth year, the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP) is offering *The National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners Alzheimer's and Dementia Staff Education Week February 14th to the 21st Toolkit*. The toolkit includes PowerPoint In-services Training on a number of topics for health care staff, and all include pre-test, post-test, hand outs, answers, in-service evaluation, and in-service certificates. The Toolkit is free and available at <http://www.nccdp.org>

To learn more about NCCDP and Alzheimer's and Dementia Staff Education Week, go to <http://www.nccdp.org>

Observances

February Observances

African American History Month

Association for Study of African American Life and History

<http://www.asalh.org/aboutasalhmain.html>

American Heart Month

American Heart Association

<http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/>

Low Vision Awareness Month

Prevent Blindness America

<http://www.preventblindness.org/about-us>

February 14: *National Donor Day*
OrganDonor.gov
<http://www.organdonor.gov/index.html>

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